(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the pay channels to screen movies on small screen i.e. TV without any commercial breaks and advertisements; and

(b) if so, response of the pay channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Set Top Boxes

1345. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israelis have a completely foolproof system which ensures that the Set Top Boxes could not be hacked; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Shareholding agreement of Star News

1346. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared the new shareholding agreement of the Star News;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has not cleared the shareholding agreement of the Star News.

FIPB has given the approval to the proposal of M/s. Media Content and Communications Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. (MCCS), for foreign investment, subject to the following conditions:

(i) The company conforms to the eligibility criteria as per ther evised guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels from India announced.

(ii) Foreign investment upto 26% is permissible under the guidelines and the company is required to produce documentary evidence after shares, etc. are issued to establish that the shareholding pattern is in accordance with approval granted.

(iii) while calculating the 26% FDI in the equity of the applicant company, the foreign holding component in the equiry of the Indian shareholder companies of the applicant company will be duly reckoned on pro rata basis so asto arrive at the total foreign holding in the applicant company.

(iv) The issue and pricing of shares shall be as per SEBI/RBI pricing norms.

(v) As shareholding of the company has to be firmed up by the company before the uplinking application is processed by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the investments made thereto, FIPB clearance is recommended. The uplinking proposal of MCCS will be examined separately by the Ministry of I & B. The FIPB approval is subject to approval being accorded by Ministry of I and B to the application received from MCCS for uplinking of the news and current affairs television channel from India.

(c) The proposal of MCCS to uplink its Star News channel from India is under examination in Ministry of I&B.

Collaboration in production of serials

†1347. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of the Doordarshan for collaboration in the field of production of serials;

(b) if so, the manner of collaboration alongwith the proportion thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.